

"Origins of U.S.-Mexican War. View from South of the Rio Grande"
Conference Sponsored by Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park
Brownsville, Texas. May 19, 2012

The Spanish Advance to the North

- 1.**Definition-personality of the Northeast
 - 2.**Conquest era: The North in the Spanish imagination
 - 3.**The approach from the South East (great event at Zacatecas 1546)
 - Zacatecas to Mazapil to Parras to Saltillo to Cerralvo-Monterrey
 - 4.**2nd Approach along the Seno Mexicano
 - 5.**Luis Carbajal de Carvajal y de la Cueva
 - 6.**Founding of Monterrey 1596 (significance of location)
 - 7.**Late 1600s settlements push toward Rio Grande
 - 8.**Creation of a northern Hispanic civilization
 - lack of mines, replaced by Indian slavery
 - checkered career of missions
 - key role of the great landowners
 - military settlements, soldier tradition
 - 9.**Robert Cavalier Sieur de LaSalle
 - 10.**Alonso De León - four expeditions 1686, 1687, 1689, 1690
 - 11.**1700-1730 slow advance toward Rio Grande from Nuevo Leon
 - 12.**Viceroy orders settlement 1739
 - 13.**José de Escandon 1749-1755: Laredo, Dolores, Revilla (now Nva Ciudad Guerrero), Mier, Camargo, Reynosa
 - 14.**Villas del Norte - a civilization on the edge
 - from an Indian frontier, to an international frontier
 - Apaches first, then Comanches, ranching prosperity late 1700s
- Independence - Rio Grande frontier 1800-1821
- 15.**situation of the Rio Grande settlements in 1810
 - growth of Mexican nationalism

- War for independence along the Rio Grande
- sympathies of the vecinos
- crucial role of Laredo 1810-1811
- Camargo 1812
- Battle of Medina 1813

16.Independence in the Northeast

- Texas in the national picture

17.Trade and the Anglo Americans in Texas

18.Villas del Norte - role in the new nation

- inspection trip by Manuel de Mier de Teran 1827-1829 (law of April 6, 1830)
- slavery issue (September 16, 1829 abolition)
- did Santa Anna provoke the Texas Revolution? (abolition of 1824 Constitution)

19.Revolution October 1835

20.The Rio Grande-Nueces strip 1836-1845

21.The "Supposed" Republic of Rio Grande

- Tamaulipas-Nuevo Leon-Coahuila (Oct1839-Nov 1841)
- sources of discontent
- what the vecinos wanted

22.Mexico 1844-1848 and the approach of war